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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You know us as we really are. You know the inner person behind our highly polished exteriors; You know when we are tired and need Your strength; You know about our worries and anxieties and offer Your comfort; You understand our fears and frustrations and assure us of Your presence; You feel our hurts and infuse Your healing love. Flood our inner beings with Your peace so that we can live with confidence and courage.

You have told us that to whom much is given, much is required. Thank You that You have taught us also that of whom much is required, much shall be given. Lord, You require a great deal of the women and men of this Senate. Provide them with an extra measure of Your strength, wisdom, and judgment for the crucial work of this next session of the 106th Congress.

We thank You for all the people who make it possible for the Senate to function effectively. Especially, we thank You for the Senators' staffs and all those here in the Senate Chamber who work cheerfully and diligently for long hours to keep the legislative process moving smoothly. Help us to take no one for granted and express our gratitude to everyone.

Now we commit this day to You, for You are our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CONRAD BURNS, a Senator from the State of Montana, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator BURNS is recognized.

Mr. BURNS. I thank the Chair.

I welcome our colleagues back from the August recess.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. so that the weekly party conferences can meet. Following the conference meetings, the Senate will move to executive session for the consideration of two judicial nominees. Therefore, Senators can expect two consecutive votes at 2:15 today.

When the Senate returns to legislative session, it will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. Amendments are expected to be offered, and therefore Senators can expect additional votes throughout today's session.

It is hoped that the Senate can complete the Interior appropriations bill on Thursday at a reasonable time. As a reminder, there will be no votes on Friday in observance of the Rosh Hashanah holiday. The majority leader looks forward to a productive legislative period as we complete the appropriations process, and he thanks all Senators in advance for their cooperation.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. today the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 173 and 175.

I further ask unanimous consent that following 5 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form, the Senate then proceed immediately to two consecutive votes on the confirmation of

the nominations with no intervening action or debate. I also ask unanimous consent that following the votes on the nominations, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. I also ask unanimous consent that it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays at this time on both nominations.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. Therefore, I now ask for the yeas and nays on Calendar Nos. 173 and 175.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent that the period of morning business be divided as follows: Senator DASCHLE or his designee in control of the first 30 minutes; Senator THOMAS in control of the second 30 minutes.

I further ask consent that immediately following the use or yielding back of those times, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 today for the weekly policy luncheons.

I further ask unanimous consent that following the votes at 2:20, Senator FEINGOLD be recognized to speak in morning business for up to 30 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 10 minutes, followed on our side by Senator BOXER and Senator DORGAN, 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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